IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 8, and amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of processing a requested synchronous operation during an initial program load or during a system install, comprising:

receiving a request for a unique identifier, from a requesting entity, a request for the synchronous operation to create an object that requires an identifier that is unique within a namespace identified by a catalog server;

determining whether the catalog server in a database management system is available to handle the request;

if the catalog server is not unavailable, determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously by determining whether the unique identifier conflicts with a name in a name table in the event that the request is synchronous; and

if the request may be handled asynchronously, allowing the catalog server to process the request requested synchronous operation to be processed asynchronously and returning control to the requesting entity.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing restricted names for system elements.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the request is for a unique identifier and wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether a data structure contains the unique identifier, wherein the data structure contains restricted unique identifiers for system objects.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing restricted names for system objects comprising at least one of triggers and constraints.

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5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity is an operating system.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether one of an operating system and the database management system is being loaded.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a name table containing a plurality of unique identifiers.

8.   (Cancelled)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the synchronous request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a name table containing a plurality of unique identifiers reserved for use by an operating system.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises:

   determining whether a program is being loaded, wherein the program is one of an operating system and the database management system; and

   if the program is being loaded, determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier usable only by the program.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 9, wherein determining whether the request is for the restricted unique identifier usable only by the program comprises determining whether a data structure contains the restricted unique identifier, wherein the data structure contains a plurality of restricted unique identifiers for system elements.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A method, comprising:

   receiving, from a requesting entity, a request for a unique identifier ~~from a requesting entity;~~

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determining whether a catalog server in a database management system is available to handle the request;

if the catalog server is not available, determining whether the request is synchronous, wherein a synchronous request blocks the requesting entity from activity until the request is completed by the catalog server;

if the request is synchronous, determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously by determining (i) whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier and (ii) whether the requesting entity has authority to use the restricted unique identifier; and

if so, the request may be handled asynchronously, providing the request to the catalog server a transaction handler interface configured to process the request in an asynchronous manner and returning control to the requesting entity.

12.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity one of the database management system and an operating system.

13.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether one of the database management system and an operating system is being loaded.

14.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity is a component of a program being loaded.

15.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously is performed by an interface.

16.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises:

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determining whether a program is being loaded, wherein the program is one of an operating system and the database management system; and

if the program is being loaded, determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier usable only by the program.

17.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing a plurality of restricted unique identifiers for system elements.

18.   (Original)   The method of claim 17, wherein the system elements comprise at least one of triggers and constraints.

19.   (Currently Amended)   A signal bearing computer-readable medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor, performs a method, comprising:

receiving, from a requesting entity, a request for a unique identifier from a requesting entity;

determining whether a catalog server in a database management system is available to handle the request;

if the catalog server is not available, determining whether the request is synchronous, wherein a synchronous request blocks the requesting entity from activity until the request is completed by the catalog server;

if the request is synchronous, determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously by determining (i) whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier and (ii) whether the requesting entity has authority to use the restricted unique identifier; and

if so, the request may be handled asynchronously, providing the request to the catalog server a transaction handler configured to process the request in an asynchronous manner and returning control to the requesting entity.

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20.   (Currently Amended)   The signal bearing computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity one of the database management system and an operating system.

21.   (Currently Amended)   The signal bearing computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether one of the database management system and an operating system is being loaded.

22.   (Currently Amended)   The signal bearing computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises determining whether the requesting entity is a component of a program being loaded.

23.   (Currently Amended)   The signal bearing computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously is performed by an interface.

24.   (Currently Amended)   The signal bearing computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises:

determining whether a program is being loaded, wherein the program is one of an operating system and the database management system; and

if the program is being loaded, determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier usable only by the program.

25.   (Currently Amended)   The signal bearing computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining whether the request may be handled asynchronously comprises accessing a data structure containing a plurality of restricted unique identifiers for system elements.

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26.   (Currently Amended)   The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the system elements comprise at least one of triggers and constraints.

27.   (Currently Amended)   A system, comprising:

a database;

a server configured to process requests submitted by requesting entities by accessing the database;

a restricted names table containing restricted unique identifiers;

at least one first requesting entity configured to submit requests for a_unique identifier[[s]] for a_database element[[s]] and wherein the first requesting entity is authorized to access the restricted names table;

at least one second requesting entity configured to submit requests for the unique identifier[[s]] for the database element[[s]] and wherein the second requesting entity is unauthorized to access the restricted names table; and

a transaction interface configured to (i) determine whether the server is available for processing requests and, (ii) if the server is not available, determine whether a synchronous request may be handled asynchronously by determining whether a request for the unique identifier from one of the second requesting entities conflicts with a name in the restricted names table.

28.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 16, wherein the transaction interface is configured to determine whether the synchronous request may be handled asynchronously by determining whether the synchronous request is from the first requesting entity and determining whether the request is for a restricted unique identifier contained in the restricted names table.

29.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 16, wherein the transaction interface is configured to determine whether the synchronous request may be handled asynchronously by determining whether the synchronous request is from the first requesting entity.

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30.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 29, wherein the transaction interface is configured to determine whether the synchronous request is from the first requesting entity by determining whether the first requesting entity is a component of a program being loaded.

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